

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**3/21/2018**

## **IDIQ MASTER (ON-CALL) CONTRACT FOR Natural Environment Services**

Statewide

**Issuing Office  
Mississippi Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 1850  
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850**

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**PART 1:**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CONSULTANT(s)**

**I. Purpose**

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is intended to provide interested consulting firms (hereinafter referred to as CONSULTANT(s)) with sufficient information for the preparation and submission of a proposal (hereinafter referred to as PROPOSAL) for consideration by the Mississippi Transportation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the **COMMISSION**). The services requested consist of the following:

*Provide Natural Environment Services, statewide (hereinafter referred to as the PROJECT).  
Additional services may apply as identified in this RFP.*

**II. Issuing Office**

This RFP is issued by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) on behalf of the **COMMISSION**. CONSULTANT(s) submitting PROPOSALS must comply with the instructions in this RFP, Legal Ad, and any addenda. The issuing office is identified below:

Scot Ehr Gott, P.E.  
Mississippi Department of Transportation  
Consultant Services Unit  
P.O. Box 1850  
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850  
Or e-mail at Scot Ehr Gott, P.E.  
[sehgott@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:sehgott@mdot.ms.gov)

**III. Intent of the COMMISSION**

The intent of the **COMMISSION** is to award an Indefinite Delivery / Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Master Contract(s) to CONSULTANT(s) to provide the services specified herein. This document does not and is not intended to include or address every item that will be included or addressed in the contract for professional services.

**IV. The Selection Process**

Selection of CONSULTANT(s) will be based on the criteria established in this RFP and/or any addenda. CONSULTANT(s) **shall not** submit any cost or price information with their PROPOSALS. CONSULTANT(s) for this RFP should submit complete PROPOSALS sufficient for final selection of the most qualified firm(s). The MDOT will then select the most qualified firm(s) based on the criteria. The **COMMISSION** reserves the right to select the CONSULTANT(s) for award of an IDIQ Master Contract using the following method:

- Final ranking of all PROPOSALS based on the initial response to this RFP.

Once the most qualified firm(s) are selected and awarded an IDIQ Master Contract by the COMMISSION, the MDOT will provide the IDIQ Master Contract for the selected CONSULTANT(s) to execute based on the description of work established in this RFP and/or any addenda. If the selected CONSULTANT(s) do not execute the contract or are unable to meet any contractual requirements within 30 days of receipt, then MDOT may select the next most qualified firm on the selection list until an IDIQ Master Contract has been executed.

Selected CONSULTANT(s) may then be assigned Work Assignments throughout the IDIQ Master Contract term. Work Assignments will be assigned based on MDOT's standard operating procedures. In addition, selected consultants may also be considered by Local Public Agencies (LPAs) during their selection procedures in accordance with the "Local Public Agency Consultant Operating Procedures for Professional Services".

The MDOT reserves the right to request additional information with any party at any time prior to final contract execution.

The MDOT reserves the right to obtain references from any source listed in the PROPOSAL and any other source deemed appropriate for any of the requirements/criteria listed in this RFP.

## **V. Type of Contract**

The terms of an IDIQ Master Contract for each selected CONSULTANT will not exceed five (5) years with an estimated maximum contract amount of up to three (3) million dollars; however, MDOT may elect to execute a contract for a shorter time period and/or a lesser "not to exceed" amount. MDOT may select up to twenty (20) CONSULTANT(s) to be awarded an IDIQ Master Contract; however, MDOT reserves the right to select a lesser amount. The IDIQ Master Contract will utilize a **cost plus fixed fee, labor hour/unit cost or lump sum/firm fixed price Work Assignments to include a maximum "not to exceed" amount<sup>1</sup> for any federally funded projects**. The IDIQ Master Contracts and associated Work Assignments will include all appropriate federal contract provisions in accordance with 49 CFR Part 18, and 23 CFR 172as revised. The IDIQ Master Contract and associated Work Assignments will provide general terms and conditions for performance of services, as well as specific instructions for fees, billing, payment, etc.

The execution of an IDIQ Master Contract is no assurance that any Work Assignment will be assigned to the CONSULTANT or that the parties will enter into Work Assignment(s). If a Work Assignment is assigned to the CONSULTANT, costs may be negotiated at a fair and reasonable price. Direct expenses may also be reimbursable.

An example of a typical MDOT professional service contract template may be found on the website at the web link indicated below. The template will be identified as "Professional Services IDIQ Master Contract Template."

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<sup>1</sup> All Consultant and subconsultant firms, shall comply with the AASHTO Uniform Audit & Accounting Guide – 2016 edition (as revised) , unless specifically authorized otherwise by MDOT. Information regarding this guide may be found at <http://audit.transportation.org/>

<http://sp.gomdot.com/Consulting%20Services/Pages/Templates.aspx>

All written questions regarding this contract template shall be e-mailed to the below addressees no later than **the date and time indicated in the section XXIII. Procurement Schedule.**

Scot Ehrgott, P.E.  
[sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov)  
and copy (Cc)  
Stephen Rone  
[srone@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:srone@mdot.ms.gov)

MDOT may update this contract template throughout the procurement process. MDOT intends to post the final contract template for this PROJECT to the website indicated above no later than **the date indicated in the section XXIII. Procurement Schedule.** Contract terms after this date are non-negotiable; however, MDOT reserves the right to modify the contract terms at its discretion.

The **COMMISSION** intends to utilize this template in order to execute a contract with the selected CONSULTANT(s).

#### **VI. Rejection of PROPOSALS and/or Discontinuance of Contract Execution**

The **COMMISSION** reserves the right to reject any and all PROPOSALS and/or to discontinue the execution of any IDIQ Master Contract or Work Assignment with any party at any time.

#### **VII. Costs Incurred by CONSULTANT Prior to Execution of a Contract**

The **COMMISSION** shall not be liable for any costs incurred by any CONSULTANT prior to the execution of an IDIQ Master Contract or Work Assignment by all parties. Furthermore, the **COMMISSION** shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the CONSULTANT under any Work Assignment prior to the effective date of the MDOT Project Director's Notice to Proceed for that Work Assignment.

#### **VIII. Addenda to and/or Questions about the RFP**

Only written requests by e-mail to the below addressees will be considered.

Scot Ehrgott  
[sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov)  
and copy (Cc)  
Stephen Rone  
[srone@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:srone@mdot.ms.gov)

No requests for additional information or clarification to any other MDOT office, consultant, or employee will be considered. All responses to written questions and addenda will be in writing and will be posted to the MDOT website indicated below:

<http://mdot.ms.gov/portal/LegalAd.aspx>

CONSULTANTs shall be solely responsible for checking the website for updates. The MDOT will not be responsible for any oral exchange or any exchange of information that occurs outside the official process specified herein.

All written questions shall be e-mailed to the above addressees no later than **the date and time indicated in the section XXIII. Procurement Schedule.**

MDOT intends to post written answers for this RFP to the website indicated above no later than **the date and time indicated in the section XXIII. Procurement Schedule.**

#### **IX. Pre-proposal Meeting**

A pre-proposal meeting will not be held for this RFP.

#### **X. CONSULTANT Submission**

To be considered, **eight (8) copies and one (1) CD/flash drive containing electronic PDF file(s)** of the CONSULTANT's PROPOSAL must be received by **the date and time indicated in the section XXIII. Procurement Schedule.** at the office of the MDOT Consultant Services Unit, addressed to Scot Ehrgott, 10th floor, Mississippi Department of Transportation Building, 401 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201.

PROPOSALs received after this date and time may be deemed non-responsive.

#### **XI. PROPOSALs**

To be considered, CONSULTANT(s) must submit a complete response to this RFP and any addenda, addressing those requirements provided in Part 2 of this RFP. No other distribution of PROPOSALs should be made by the CONSULTANT. **The original and all required copies of the PROPOSAL should be signed by an official authorized to bind the CONSULTANT to its provisions.**

The CONSULTANT should mark any and all pages of the PROPOSAL considered to be proprietary information which may remain confidential in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated 25-61-9 and 79-23-1 (1972, as amended). Each page of the PROPOSAL that the CONSULTANT considers trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information should be on a different color paper than non-confidential pages and be marked in the upper right hand corner with the word "CONFIDENTIAL." Failure to clearly identify trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information will result in that information being released subject to a public records request.

#### **XII. Economy of Preparation**

PROPOSALs should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of the CONSULTANT'S ability to meet the requirements of the RFP and any addenda.

### **XIII. Prime Consultant Responsibilities**

Each selected CONSULTANT will be required to assume responsibility for all services offered in the PROPOSAL whether or not these services are produced directly by the CONSULTANT or through subconsultant(s). Furthermore, the **COMMISSION** will consider the CONSULTANT selected to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, and the MDOT retains the right to approve or disapprove all proposed subconsultant(s). CONSULTANT(s) responding to this RFP should identify all proposed partners and subconsultant(s).

Any partners and subconsultants are to remain for the duration of the contract, and changes cannot be made without prior MDOT approval. Modifications of partners and subconsultants are discouraged and are subject to MDOT's approval. MDOT will not approve requests for modification without justification to MDOT's satisfaction.

Under no condition will the selected CONSULTANT be allowed to sublet or subcontract more than 60% of the work required under the contract. It is clearly understood and agreed that specific projects or phases of the work may be sublet or subcontracted in their entirety provided that the selected CONSULTANT performs at least 40% of the overall contract with its own forces.

The selected CONSULTANT must be registered with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office to do business in the State of Mississippi prior to contract execution. Failure to comply with this requirement within 30 days of selection notification may result in failure to execute a contract with the selected CONSULTANT. MDOT may then reject the selected CONSULTANT for the duration of this process and negotiate an IDIQ Master Contract with the next most qualified CONSULTANT on the list until the contract has been executed. Additional requirements may apply as identified in Part 2 of this RFP.

### **XIV. Disclosure of PROPOSAL Contents**

All materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of the **COMMISSION** and may be returned only at the **COMMISSION**'s option. All information submitted in response to this RFP shall be subject to disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act and any other applicable law.

### **XV. Nondiscrimination Requirement**

By submitting a response to this RFP, the CONSULTANT agrees that they understand that the **COMMISSION** is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of the **COMMISSION** to comply with all applicable portions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, creed, sex, age, national origin, physical handicap, or disability. The proposed contract will require that the CONSULTANT and all subconsultant(s) agree to strictly adhere to this policy in all employment practices and provision of services.

In the event the CONSULTANT performs work for the **COMMISSION** that involves the selection of a site or location of a facility, the CONSULTANT shall utilize criteria or methods of selection which consider the impacts and benefits of the facility on persons without discrimination because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The criteria and methods shall be designed to include proactive

measures for obtaining citizen participation from persons of all applicable races, colors, religions, sexes and national origins.

#### **XVI. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal**

The MDOT is committed to provide for full participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in contracting opportunities available through this IDIQ Master Contract, to the greatest extent practical. DBE goals may be applied to Work Assignments at MDOT's discretion. In the event that a DBE goal is required on an individual Work Assignment, MDOT approval of the DBE subconsultant(s) will be required.

CONSULTANT(s) may visit MDOT's website, [www.gomdot.com](http://www.gomdot.com), to view a complete list of Certified DBE Firms which have been certified as such by the Mississippi Department of Transportation and other Unified Certification Partners (UCPs). The DBE firm must be on the Department's list of "Certified DBE firms" as listed on MDOT's website, [www.gomdot.com](http://www.gomdot.com), and approved by MDOT to perform the classification of work to count towards meeting the DBE goal.

#### **XVII. Notification of Selected CONSULTANT(s)**

The selected CONSULTANT(s) will be notified of their status by the MDOT. The CONSULTANT(s) whose PROPOSALS are not selected will be notified in writing of the name of the selected CONSULTANT(s).

#### **XVIII. Debriefing Request(s)**

If a CONSULTANT opts to request a debriefing following the announcement of the selected CONSULTANT(s), the CONSULTANT shall send an e-mail to the below addressees within two (2) weeks of the distribution of the notification letter of the selected CONSULTANT(s). Any debriefings shall be limited to the merits of the individual CONSULTANT's PROPOSAL.

Scot Ehgott, P.E.  
[sehgott@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:sehgott@mdot.ms.gov)  
and copy (Cc)  
Stephen Rone  
[srone@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:srone@mdot.ms.gov)

#### **XIX. Contract Administration**

The CONSULTANT contract will be administered by the MDOT. All payments will be made to the contracted prime CONSULTANT(s) by the MDOT. The prime CONSULTANT will be responsible for all payments to its partners and/or subconsultant(s).

#### **XX. Conflict of Interest**

CONSULTANTS shall provide information concerning potential conflicts of interest and disclose all relevant facts concerning any past, present, or currently planned interests which may present a conflict



of interest. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include relationships or situations which would impair the CONSULTANT's judgment on the job, impair the ability to perform, or allow the CONSULTANT an unfair competitive advantage. The CONSULTANT shall state how its interests or those of its chief executives, directors, individuals, or subconsultants for this contract, may result, or could be viewed as, a conflict of interest. Furthermore, the CONSULTANT shall describe actions taken, or proposed to be taken, to mitigate stated conflicts or potential conflicts.

The responsibility of the CONSULTANT to disclose a conflict of interest if one is discovered is ongoing, prior to award and throughout the contract period. The CONSULTANT agrees that, if a conflict of interest is discovered, the CONSULTANT must make an immediate and full disclosure to MDOT that includes a description of the action that the CONSULTANT has taken or proposes to take to avoid or mitigate such conflict.

**If no potential conflict of interest exists, the CONSULTANT should indicate so in the PROPOSAL.**

## **XXI. Suspension and Debarment**

**The Prime CONSULTANT shall ensure that they and any subconsultants are not suspended or debarred as specified in 2 CFR 1200 and 2 CFR 180. Proposals that contain any team members that are suspended or debarred will be deemed non-responsive and returned to the Prime CONSULTANT without consideration.**

## **XXII. Key Personnel Modifications**

Key Individuals and team members, as identified in the organizational chart, are to remain for the duration of the contract and changes cannot be made without prior MDOT approval. Modifications of Key Individuals are discouraged. MDOT will not approve requests for modification without justification. Examples of justification include death of a team member, changes in employment status, bankruptcy, inability to perform, organizational conflict of interest, or other such significant cause. In order to secure MDOT's approval prior to execution of the contract, the CONSULTANT shall e-mail the below addressees:

Scot Ehrgott, P.E.  
[sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:sehrgott@mdot.ms.gov)  
and copy (Cc)  
Stephen Rone  
[srone@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:srone@mdot.ms.gov)

The request shall include:

- A. The nature of the desired change;
- B. The reason for the desired change;
- C. A statement of how the desired change will meet the required qualification for the position/responsibility; and
- D. A copy of the individual's resume for review.

MDOT will review the justification and resume of the Key Personnel and determine whether the modification is appropriate and notify the CONSULTANT. Failure to receive approval for any modification in personnel may result in termination of negotiations.

### **XXIII. Procurement Schedule**

The following schedule identified below lists the projected dates for the procurement of this IDIQ Master Contract.

<b><u>Procurement Schedule</u></b>	
Advertisement dates for legal notice	March 21 <sup>st</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
Deadline for CONSULTANTS' written questions	April 4, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
*Answering of written questions/ Posting of final contract template	*April 9, 2018
Deadline for delivery of PROPOSALS	April 23, 2018, 5:00 p.m.
*Selection of qualified CONSULTANT(s)	*June 2018

**\*Approximate dates only.**

Note: All times are Central Time.

## **PART 2: INFORMATION REQUIRED/SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **I. Format for PROPOSAL**

To be considered, the PROPOSAL must respond to all requirements of this RFP, the Legal Ad, and any addenda. The recommended PROPOSAL length should not exceed twenty-five (25) pages, exclusive of appendices. The resumes (which should not exceed two pages per individual in length), SF-330 Part II, proof of state licensure and certification requirements, and any information not relevant to the requirements or criteria should be included in the appendices. The CONSULTANT's cover letter, table of contents, any summaries and introductions, team organizational chart, past performance information, and any other responses to the evaluation criteria indicated in Part 2, Section III of this RFP should be included in the 25 pages. Any information beyond the recommended twenty-five (25) page limit, exclusive of appendices, may not be considered. Pages should be numbered, single-spaced, one-sided, 8.5 inches by 11 inches with margins of at least one inch on all four sides. No more than five pages may be 11 inches by 17 inches, but they will count as two sheets each against the recommended 25-page maximum. Information within the recommended 25-page maximum of the PROPOSAL should be complete and sufficient in scope for the selection committee to evaluate the CONSULTANT. Also, all text information in the recommended 25-page maximum should be shown in a readable font, size 12 points or larger. Headers, footers, charts, and other graphics may be provided in a different font type and size providing they are legible. Section dividers, tabs, or similar means are recommended but are not counted as part of the recommended 25-page maximum.

The overall quality of the PROPOSAL will be evaluated. This will include, but will not be limited to, overall layout and readability of the submittal, organization and comprehensiveness of the content, conformance with formatting guidelines above, and any other characteristics of the PROPOSAL that increase the quality of the document. CONSULTANTS are encouraged to thoroughly address and adhere to the recommendations and/or preferences of the PROPOSAL for the highest quality response. Failure to provide any of the information in the appropriate location indicated or adhere to the recommendations and/or preferences may adversely affect the CONSULTANT's score.

### **II. Requirements and Instructions for PROPOSAL submission**

CONSULTANT(s) interested in providing these services may indicate so by furnishing MDOT with **eight (8) copies and one (1) CD/flash drive containing electronic PDF file(s)** of a PROPOSAL as referenced in Part 1, Section X of this RFP. The CONSULTANT should divide their PROPOSAL into the following sections as listed below, clearly separated by tabs, section dividers, or similar means; however, resumes, certifications/licenses, SF-330 Part II, and other information not relevant to these requirements and/or preferences should be included in the appendices as indicated above. **CONSULTANTS should address each of the following categories in their PROPOSAL in the same order as listed below.** MDOT reserves the right to obtain references from any source listed in the PROPOSAL and any other source deemed appropriate for any of the information listed in this RFP. The quality of the PROPOSAL will be

considered when evaluating the CONSULTANT's PROPOSAL. The PROPOSAL should provide at a minimum the following information:

#### **A. Provide a Cover Letter/Introduction**

The CONSULTANT should provide a cover letter/introduction specifying the description of the IDIQ Master Contract as referenced in this RFP, the name of the Prime CONSULTANT and any of its subconsultant(s), the name of an individual who will be the single point of contact throughout the selection process, the name of the Project Manager, the location and address of the managing office, and the location and address of the office(s) that may be assigned the work (including any subconsultant(s)). Should any subconsultant(s) be teaming with the CONSULTANT, identify both the roles of the CONSULTANT and the subconsultant(s). **In addition, the CONSULTANT shall provide information concerning potential conflicts of interest as referenced in Section XX of this RFP. If no potential conflict of interest exists, the CONSULTANT should indicate so in the PROPOSAL.** The CONSULTANT must note if this is a joint venture. **If selected, a joint venture must meet all contract requirements as a joint venture, including insurance requirements.**

#### **B. Past Experience**

The CONSULTANT should provide a description of projects for similar type work performed during the past five (5) years which qualifies the CONSULTANT for this work. Projects completed during the past five (5) years are preferred. This project description should include the work related to the Project Description established in Part 3 of this RFP. **Provide a detailed description of the role of the CONSULTANT and define whether the CONSULTANT was the prime or a subconsultant. Include in the description the amount of the CONSULTANT's contract for the work they provided for the project, the date the CONSULTANT's contract was initiated, the CONSULTANT's scheduled completion date in accordance with the progress schedule, and when the CONSULTANT completed the work in accordance with the contract. In addition, the CONSULTANT should list any staff from the organizational chart that worked on the projects and identify their roles for the projects. If the CONSULTANT's project was not completed on time, provide justification (if any).** For each of the projects, the CONSULTANT should provide the name and contact information of the client and the client's representative who can verify and discuss the project. **Any subconsultant teaming with the CONSULTANT should also provide the above requested past performance information.**

#### **C. Description of Staff, Organizational Chart, and Resumes**

The CONSULTANT(s) should propose an appropriate and efficient quantity and quality of staff to ensure the successful completion of all work established in Part 3 of this RFP with limited MDOT support. The following information should be included in this section unless specifically stated otherwise:

1. The CONSULTANT should provide a team organizational chart that identifies Key Personnel and other relevant employees of the CONSULTANT and any subconsultant(s) for this contract as indicated below (Section C.2). Key Personnel include the Project Manager. **The team organizational chart should include each individual's name, job description (for this contract), company of employment, and primary office location.** The organizational chart should be tabbed and clearly defined.
2. The CONSULTANT should include the following specific information for the Key Personnel and other relevant employees listed below and reference all individuals in the organizational chart:
  - a. **Project Manager** – MDOT prefers that the CONSULTANT's Project Manager be on the permanent staff of the prime CONSULTANT. The Project Manager should be provided for overall project oversight. Activities of the Project Manager will include but will not be limited to, establishing and administering controls to ensure the quality of deliverables, monitoring the project status, developing (with MDOT) and maintaining a detailed project work plan and schedule; and providing status reports to MDOT as requested.
  - The CONSULTANT should provide a written summary indicating why the individual serving as the Project Manager would be the best candidate for this contract and describe how they will be engaged in this contract.
  - The CONSULTANT should provide a maximum of three (3) similar type projects that the Project Manager has worked on (completed projects are preferred) in the last five (5) years. The description should describe the role and the level of work provided by the Project Manager. In addition, the PROPOSAL should include the name of the firm which the Project Manager was employed for the project, the date that the Project manager's firm initiated the contract for the project,, the date the project was completed in accordance with the firm's contract, and the firm's contract amount.
  - **The PROPOSAL should include proof that the Project Manager has a degree in biological or natural resource sciences in the appendix.**
  - b. **Other Relevant Employees:** Other relevant employees include any additional staff members of the CONSULTANT and subconsultant(s) which will be utilized to perform any other services in accordance with the Project Description established in Part 3 of this RFP.
    - The CONSULTANT should define these other relevant employees and
      - describe their roles and responsibilities for this contract, and
      - provide a written summary of each individual's experience and qualifications relative to those services in accordance with the Project Description established in Part 3 of this RFP.

3. Resumes for all Key Personnel and other relevant employees as listed above and in the team organizational chart should be included in the appendix. Resumes (which should not exceed two pages per individual in length) should reflect qualifications and recent experience relevant to the Project Description established in Part 3 of this RFP. Any additional certifications/licenses should be included in the appendices.

#### **D. Location/Proximity of CONSULTANT's Office(s)**

The CONSULTANT should identify the location and address of the office of the firm which will be coordinating efforts for the PROJECT. In addition, the CONSULTANT should list any other office locations where any work may take place. If subconsultant(s) will be provided, the CONSULTANT should identify their office locations where work may be provided as well.

#### **E. Part II of Standard Form (SF) 330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications**

The CONSULTANT should provide Part II of Standard Form (SF)-330, Architect-Engineer Qualifications. If a CONSULTANT has branch offices, complete the form for each specific branch office seeking work. In addition, this form should be completed for any subconsultant(s) in the same manner. This form can be obtained at the following web address:

[http://sp.gomdot.com/Consulting%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20\(SF\)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf](http://sp.gomdot.com/Consulting%20Services/Forms/Standard%20Form%20(SF)%20330,%20Part%20II.pdf).

This Form should be provided in the appendix.

### **III. CONSULTANT Selection Criteria**

All responsive PROPOSALS received from CONSULTANT(s) will be reviewed and evaluated by the selection committee based on the selection criteria listed below. The criteria are listed in order of their relative importance to the selection committee.

- A. Experience, performance, and qualifications of the team's staff,
- B. CONSULTANT's (and any subconsultant's) past experience, performance, and qualifications on similar projects with MDOT and/or other clients,
- C. Experience, performance, and qualifications of the proposed Project Manager,
- D. Location/proximity of the CONSULTANT's (and any subconsultants') office(s), and
- E. Quality of PROPOSAL.

### **PART 3: PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The CONSULTANT will provide Natural Environment Services, Statewide. While this IDIQ Master Contract will primarily consist of providing Wetlands and Other Waters Assessments, Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Services, and Mitigation Banking Services, additional services may also apply. These Natural Environment Services include gathering data on Wetlands, Other Waters, and TES; conducting field assessments; preparing reports, applications, and any other related activities; assisting MDOT with any coordination meetings related to the above activities; and assisting MDOT in establishing any mitigation banks/service areas by providing the necessary documentation such as prospectus, banking instrument, and any other related activities. These services include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Wetlands and Other Waters Assessments
  - Successfully complete and submit an approved report using the most recent MDOT Wetlands and Other Waters Assessment Report template and Channel Assessment Field Data Sheet following Regulatory Protocol, including any coordination functions.
- Threatened and Endangered Species Services
  - perform all TES services or surveys with appropriate coordination with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP);
  - identify any designated critical habitat through coordination with USFWS and MDWFP;
  - identify “suitable habitat” through coordination with USFWS and MDWFP;
  - review engineering design plans, US Geological Survey Topographical maps, Geographic Information System data, aerial and satellite photography, US Department of Agriculture Soil Survey data, National Wetland Inventory data, and other resources to analyze and evaluate impacts to listed species;
  - conduct presence/absence surveys for TES and habitats when required;
  - conduct field work, delineate and document the preliminary assessment for actual impacts by evaluating habitats, soil morphology and characteristics, landscape features, wildlife, and any other characteristics contributing to the presence of TES;
  - use GPS and CADD to document field findings;
  - prepare Biological Assessments or other documents as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act;
  - perform biological monitoring as required by regulatory agencies when requested by MDOT;
  - attend project meetings as required; and
  - perform other related activities as requested by MDOT.
- Mitigation Banking Services
  - coordinate and ultimately develop the Mitigation Banking Prospectus and the Mitigation Banking Instrument to obtain approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District Regulatory Branch for MDOT to utilize property as a mitigation bank/site;

- provide all the technical expertise and documentation with regard to the development of hydrological restoration and enhancement plans for the property as required for ultimate approval and implementation as a mitigation banking property. Hydrological Plans will include both surface water improvements and groundwater monitoring for the purpose of maintaining and quantifying hydrological conditions of the mitigation banking site. Examples of surface water improvements are water control structures such as berms, flood gates, and beaver control measures. Examples of groundwater monitoring include monitoring wells and piezometers used to collect quantitative data about shallow groundwater regimes near wetland boundaries and adjacent uplands;
  - submit designs to the Interagency Review Team for approval for all stream restoration activities (these designs must follow accepted methodologies such as the Rosgan Stream Restoration Methods); and
  - coordinate and/or implement enhancement and restoration activities including aerial or ground herbicide applications, mechanical drum chopping (or other approved mechanical control mechanisms), replanting of sites with indigenous species, or the use of other similar methods of site preparation required to achieve maximum mitigation banking credit output; and
  - perform other related activities as requested by MDOT.
- Provide other Natural Environment related services.

Services shall comply with the current version of the following publications:

- A. 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Technical Report Y-87-1);
- B. 2010 *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region* (ERDC/EL TR-10-20);
- C. 1979 *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (FWS/OBS-79/31);
- D. 2008 Federal Mitigation Rule;
- E. Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring at Potential Wetland Sites (ERDC TN-WRAP-05-2);
- F. *A Function-Based Framework for Stream Assessment & Restoration Projects* (EPA 843-K-12-006);
- G. USFWS Template for Biological Assessments & Biological Evaluations; and
- H. Any other publications listed in Exhibit 8, or as instructed by MDOT.